

## ABSTRACT

A, preferably external, storage device is provided with a button or other user input which, when activated, causes a launch of an application such as a backup of data from the host device onto the external storage device. Preferably, the external storage device  
5 includes a hard disk drive. Communication with the host device can be made using USB, IEEE 1394, Ethernet, wireless links or other links. The external device is configured to allow the host to become aware of a button press, e.g., by a notification or interrupt technique, or by a polling technique.